

# Trans atlantic slave trade and the middle passage



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The Trans Atlantic Slave Trade started in the 16th century, went up to the 19th century; was carried out across the Atlantic Ocean transporting slaves from Africa to America (North and South) and some of them were taken to some European countries like Portugal, France and others so as to complete the triangular trade. The middle passage was known to be the route used by slave traders to transport slaves to both the Caribbean plantations and the American plantations. The route was from Africa to America (north and south), to Europe and then back to Africa (Richardson, 2004). This short essay outlines the impact of this slave trade.

Impacts of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade Slave trade brought about positive and negative implications to both the whites and the Africans. The negative implications were mainly on the sides of the Africans and it is the whites who benefited a lot from this trade. This had the following implications below.

Depopulation of West Africa The Trans Atlantic trade seriously decreased the population in West Africa since it was the main source of slaves. There were many powerful empires that used to ambush small societies and then sell the ambushed people as slaves to the whites. They used to exchange the slaves for small products such as cloth, mirrors, guns plus their gun powder, some food crops like maize and others, on the other hand, Richardson (2004) points out that, this led to formation of strong empires in West Africa.

Spread of Christianity Christianity in West Africa was widely spread by the white who came to practice slave trade. They used to use this as a technique to weaken Africans by first sending the missionaries to spread Christianity and soften hearts of people from Africa, after which slave traders then came in to carry out slave trade. In this is the way, Christianity came to be spread

widely in West Africa (Richardson, 2004). Bust of the industrial revolution in Europe According to Richardson (2004), because of the Trans Atlantic slave trade, the industrial revolution in Europe came to the climax by then because there were increased materials for the industries more especially the cotton and sugar industries in Europe.

The slaves were taken to Caribbean and American plantations to work in them and then the raw materials would be transported and distributed to industries in Europe. Infrastructural development on the West African coast As Richardson (2004) explains slave trade brought about infrastructural development in West Africa. The wealth that used to be got from the trade was used in infrastructural developments such as road construction, storage facilities were built, construction of schools because education was already introduced by the missionaries. This was apposite implication of the triangular trade to the people of West Africa. Increased unrests Slave trade brought about massive loses of cotton, sugar and other plantations.

This used to be a result of slaves striking because the mistreated by the whites, they used to burn the plantations in which they used to work as a lesson to the whites so that hey revise the ways they used to treat them(fighting for their rights as humans) (Richardson, 2004). Conclusion From what has been discussed above, we strongly conclude that it was the whites who greatly benefited a lot from the triangular trade and the Africans benefited less from it.